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Maha Rajas in various important capacities. As the chief avenue to Government employment in recent years has been the passing of University Examinations, they had been crowded out by other races possessing the special aptitude of passing literary tests. Even in departments where energy, independence, force of character and promptness of decision were more necessary than mere literary skill, they had been steadily ousted. Large numbers of their young men were being forced to seek service elsewhere. He therefore requested that the defect in the educational system be remedied and greater scope and encouragement given to their young men. He also referred to the humiliating treatment accorded to the members of the community in the matter of invitations to public Darbars and State entertainments, in which all communities except theirs were asked to participate. All respectable foreigners and strangers, whether European, Eurasian or Indian, were being invited to such functions; while the members of their community, however high their official or social position might be, were completely ignored if they happened to be born in Travancore, as if it were a disgrace or a crime to be born within its boundaries. Such invidious distinctions did not obtain in British territory and in the sister State of Cochin.

Dewan's reply.—The member's suggestions are noted.

88. *Poor-houses.*

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) suggested that poor-houses be established for the destitute, the blind and the cripple.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestion made by the member will be noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 2 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M.

LOCAL SUBJECTS.

CARDAMOM HILLS DISTRICT.

89. *Periyar bridge and Kanjirapalli-Kumili road.*

Mr. F. W. LeFeuvre (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) said that the work on the Periyar bridge had been going on for about 8 years and that his Association would be glad if Government would give them an assurance as to how soon the bridge would be open to cart traffic. The bridge has become a matter of the most vital importance in consequence of the opening and shutting of flood-gates at the Periyar Dam. Without any notice to them, under prevailing conditions, pending the completion of the bridge, they were liable to be completely

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cut off from all communication with the Eastern Ghauts from which they drew a considerable proportion of their supplies, and by which route a large proportion of their produce was exported. He therefore requested that the work be pushed on with the least possible delay.

Referring to the main Kottayam-Kumili road, his Association, he said, put on record their appreciation of the good work done by the D. P. W., through their representative at the Assembly, two years ago. Since then the work had made very slow progress, metal having been laid along only 15 miles out of 42, while portions of the road up to the 26th mile, which should have been attended to before the new section was undertaken, had long been neglected. The bridge at the 24th mile was, he said, in a very dangerous condition. The member added that his Association hoped that the Dewan would soon be able to pay a visit to Peermade, where he would be able to learn at first hand the needs and grievances, if any, of their district and where he would be accorded a very hearty welcome.

Dewan's reply.—The Chief Engineer reports that the Periyar bridge is completed, except the decking and the parapet walls, and that these latter will also be finished before the next monsoon.

In regard to the Kanjirapalli-Kumili road, an estimate is under preparation for the re-metalling of the section between Vazhur and Kanjirapalli. That will be sanctioned when it is received. The Kumili road is one of our main roads and Government recognise that it must be kept in good order.

The re-metalling of the ghaut section of the Kanjirapalli road, as per estimate already sanctioned, is being done, and the Chief Engineer assures me that the work will be finished before the next monsoon.

90. *Communication between Devicolum and Kumili.*

Mr. H. M. Knight (Member, Cardamom Planters' and Rubber Planters' Associations) had intended to request for a cart-road from Devicolum to Kumili with a branch road down the Thevaram Mettu. He said, however, that in view of the financial position of Government, he would amend that request and would urge that at least the existing bridle-path might be put in good order, bridges built over all rivers and streams, the proposed deviation cut and outlet paths already promised made without delay.

Dewan's reply.—I am very glad that the member has withdrawn the request for a cart-road and substitutes in

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